The Resources Agency

Gray Davis Governor



Mary D. Nichols Secretary

California Conservation Corps • Department of Boating & Waterways • Department of Conservation

Department of Fish & Game • Department of Forestry & Fire Protection • Department of Parks & Recreation • Department of Water Resources

September 22, 1999

The Honorable Don Young Chairman, House Resources Committee 1324 Longworth House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable George Miller Ranking Member, House Resources Committee 1329 Longworth House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable John Doolittle Chairman, Subcommittee on Water and Power 1522 Longworth House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Cal Dooley
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Water and Power
1201 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

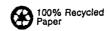
Dear Gentlemen:

Thank you for your letter of August 16, 1999 regarding the State of California's financial commitment to the CALFED Bay/Delta Program. I appreciate your interest in maintaining strong bipartisan support for the Program.

As you know, Governor Davis and the State legislature recently reached agreement on a \$1.97 billion general obligation bond to be placed on the March 2000 ballot. If approved by the voters, the bond will provide significant levels of statewide funding for a variety of programs that are key elements of the CALFED Draft Plan, including groundwater storage, water treatment facilities, flood and river corridor protection, watershed management, levee rehabilitation, water conservation, and water

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recycling. The bond will also provide \$430 million specifically for CALFED-related activities to support water quality improvements, fish protection facilities, and water supply reliability projects in areas that depend upon water supplies from the delta.

In addition, Governor Davis has allocated \$10 million in this year's budget to support CALFED's Integrated Storage Investigation (ISI), and will request another \$20 million for ISI as part of next year's budget. This funding package, together with the ecosystem and water supply reliability funds made available through passage of Proposition 204 in 1996, demonstrates that the State of California fully intends to meet its cost-share obligations to support the CALFED Program.

With your support and leadership, I am hopeful that the federal government also will continue to maintain its financial commitment to the Program. In particular, Congressional support for an extension of the CALFED authorization of \$430 million enacted in 1996 is essential to maintain the federal share and commitment to the Program.

Since passage of the state bond act by the legislature earlier this month, the stakeholder groups have been meeting to develop a reauthorization package that would attract broad-based, bipartisan support. To facilitate these discussions, I have developed a draft proposal (see attached) modeled after the agreement reached among the stakeholders on the scope and purpose of the federal FY 1999 appropriation. Together with other federal authorizations and appropriations for CALFED-related programs, it is intended to maintain a balanced approach to providing the federal share for all major elements of the Program.

I believe the attached proposed legislation provides an appropriate starting point for more detailed discussions with the Resources Committee and other members of Congress. Therefore, I urge you to introduce legislation and schedule a hearing as soon as possible to solicit comments on the reauthorization from the stakeholder groups and the Committee.

Thank you again for your continued support for the CALFED Bay/Delta Program. I look forward to working with you and other members of Congress to provide leadership in managing and overseeing the CALFED Program.

Mary D. Nichols

Yours sincerely

Secretary for Resources

Attachment

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cc: Representative Grace Napolitano Representative Ken Calvert Representative Richard Pombo Representative George Radanovich Representative Elton Gallegly Senator Dianne Feinstein Senator Barbara Boxer